



DFS BRIEFS

Monthly updates from the Department of Fire Services

May 2009

Keeping the Commonwealth Safe

DFS Web Links

State Fire Marshal

Fire Prevention

Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

Emergency Response

Fire & Explosion Investigation Section

Administration

About DFS

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**Department of Fire
Services
P.O. Box 1025
State Road
Stow, MA 01775
978-567-3100**

www.mass.gov/dfs



A Message from State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan

Welcome to **DFS Briefs**. This new monthly communication is designed to quickly provide specialized information to the Massachusetts fire services community. I am also interested in your feedback on this new format which replaces the traditional monthly mailing from DFS. If you do have comments, questions and suggestions about **DFS Briefs**, then please email me at Stephen.Coan@state.ma.us.

This month's highlights-quick links

Training Opportunities

- Monthly Code Enforcement Training – May 5 through June 23, 2009
- Fireworks Safety, Codes & Regulations Training in conjunction with the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) – May 6, 2009
- Senior Fire Officer Forum: Integrated Risk Management by Gordon Graham - May 14
- Fire Service Serious Injury or Line of Duty Death – May 22
- From Battlefield to Street: One Uniform to Another – June 2 & 3, 2009

Public Education

- Preventing Electrical Fires at Home brochure

DFS Auditorium
P.O. Box 1025, One State Road
Stow, MA 01775

Mashpee Town Hall
16 Great Neck Road – North
Mashpee, MA

Easthampton Fire Department
32 Payson Avenue
Easthampton MA

Sturbridge Fire Department
346 Main Street
Sturbridge, MA

Department of Industrial Accidents
Frank Janas Center
160 Winthrop Street
Lawrence MA

Cedarville Community Center
2209 State Road
Plymouth MA

Western New England College
1215 Wilbraham Road
Sleith Hall - 100
Springfield MA

SABIC Innovative Plastics
1 Plastics Ave
Pittsfield MA

Fall River Fire Department
140 Commerce Drive
Fall River MA

Springfield Training Center
100 Grochmall Avenue
Springfield MA

West Springfield Municipal Office Bldg
2nd Floor Auditorium
26 Central Street
West Springfield MA

Norwell Town Hall
345 Main St.
Norwell MA

MPTC (MA Police Training Committee)
Randolph Regional Police Academy
6 Adams St.
Randolph MA

Register Early!

***Advanced registration
through the
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
is required***

***Please use a standard MFA
application***

**Additional information & applications
can be obtained @ www.mass.gov/dfs**



**Department of Fire Services
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Code Enforcement Training
Schedule 2009**



Inside:

Monthly Trainings

**Code Enforcement
Training Descriptions**

Cost:

*** NO FEES ***

Who:

**Fire Chiefs, Fire
Inspectors, Company
Officers responsible for
Inspection**



MGL 148 and 527 CMR Training

Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 148 provides the legal foundation for compliance and enforcement activities related to fire prevention. This program is intended for the person newly assigned to fire prevention activities, or as a review for current fire prevention personnel. The program will provide a comprehensive overview of the statutes and their application in day-to-day fire code enforcement. The program will also cover the provisions of 527 CMR 1 "Administration and Enforcement".

January 8th 200-000-606-A
1000-1300: DFS/MFA Auditorium
January 15th 200-000-606-B
1000-1300: Mashpee Town Hall
January 22nd 200-000-606-C
1000-1300: Easthampton FD
January 22nd 200-000-606-D
1830-2130: Sturbridge FD

Smoke and CO Alarm Inspection Requirements for One and Two Family Dwellings

This program will outline the smoke and carbon monoxide alarm requirements for the inspection of one and two family dwellings as it relates to MGL c.148 s. 26F and 26F ½. Included in this program will be a review of the recently adopted 7th Edition One and Two Family Dwelling Code (780 CMR).

February 3rd 200-000-627-D
1830 – 2130: DFS/MFA Auditorium
February 4th 200-000-627-A
0900-1200: DFS/MFA Auditorium
February 9th 200-000-627-B
1830 – 2130: Pittsfield (SABIC Innovative Plastic)
February 24th 200-000-627-E
0900-1200: Randolph, MPTC
February 25th 200-000-627-C
0900–1200: W. Springfield Mun. Office Bldg

Large Fires & Lessons Learned

This class is for Building and Fire Officials. It will cover large fire losses and how the codes have changed as a result of large loss fires. It will also cover any code changes that resulted from the lessons learned. This will also focus on changes to Chapter 9 of the 7th Edition of the Building Code. We encourage both building and fire officials to attend these sessions together.

March 3rd 200-000-625-A
0900 – 1200: DFS/MFA Auditorium
March 4th 200-000-625-D
0900 – 1200: Dept. of Industrial Accidents
March 19th 200-000-625-E
1830 – 2130: DFS/MFA Auditorium
March 23rd 200-000-625-F
1830 – 2130: Easthampton FD
March 25th 200-000-625-C
0900 – 1200: Randolph, MPTC
March 26th 200-000-625-B
0900 – 1200 Springfield – WNEC

Blasting – 527 CMR 13

This program is intended for fire service personnel who are or will be involved in issuing permits to blast, participating in blasting details or reviewing blasting damage complaints.

The program will cover the regulations (527 CMR 13) related to permitting, transportation, storage, and use of explosives in a commercial blasting operation. The program will also cover the most common commercial explosives in use today. The responsibilities of fire service personnel assigned to blasting details will also be covered, as well as the fire department's role in blasting damage complaint investigations.

April 1st 200-000-611-C
0900 – 1200: Fall River FD
April 8th 200-000-611-A
0900 – 1200 DFS/MFA Auditorium
April 9th 200-000-611-B
0900 – 1200: Dept. of Industrial Accidents
April 13th 200-000-611-D
1830 – 2130: Springfield Training Center

BBRS/BFPR Updates Review of New & Revised 527 CMR Sections

This program will review changes and additions made by both the Board of Fire Prevention or Board of Building Regulations and Standards. It will provide an opportunity for fire service personnel to get information on the latest code changes. It will include information on the 7th Edition of 780CMR.

May 5th 200-000-622-A
0900 – 1200: DFS/MFA Auditorium
May 13th 200-000-622-B
0900 – 1200: Norwell Town Hall
May 14th 200-000-622-C
1300 -1600: Easthampton FD
May 14th 200-000-622-E
1800 – 2100: Easthampton FD
May 19th 200-000-622-D
0900 - 1200: Cedarville Community Center

Fireworks Regulations Fireworks 527 CMR 2

The goal of this program is to provide fire service personnel with an overview of the fireworks permitting process. Props and inert fireworks will be used to acquaint students with some of the most commonly used commercial fireworks. The program will also cover the responsibilities of fire service personnel assigned to fireworks details. A significant portion of the program will cover the procedures for conducting a fireworks display inspection.

June 11th 200-000-610-A
0900 – 1200: Mashpee Town Hall
June 16th 200-000-610-B
0900 – 1200: Dept. of Industrial Accidents
June 18th 200-000-610-C
0900 – 1200: Easthampton FD
June 23rd 200-000-610-D
1830 – 2130: DFS/MFA Auditorium



Register Now!

Department of Fire Services

In conjunction with the APA presents

Fireworks Safety, Codes & Regulations

The Department of Fire Services in conjunction with the American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) is pleased to offer a one-day training program for the fire service and those employed by fireworks companies. This one-day program will review the applicable MA codes as well as Federal regulations of the ATF, DOT, OSHA, and NFPA.

Additional topics to be covered include proper storage for fireworks; transportation, emergencies at the storage facility and on the road, firing the display, and display site management (i.e. handling of duds, misfires and post display cleanup), fireworks chemistry, manufacturing and the types of fireworks used by industry as well as illegal devices that enforcement authorities may come in contact.

- Types of displays: aerial, low level, land, barges and elevated structures
- Display site venues
- Permits
- Equipment types and set-ups
- Personal protective/safety equipment
- Lead pyrotechnician responsibilities
- Dealing with emergencies on the display site
- Fallout zone, crowd control, weather conditions



The training program will also include an overview of the industry and the impact of the recently enacted Safe Explosives Act on the professional fireworks industry.

Mr. Gregg Smith, who has been the Safety Program Manager for the American Pyrotechnics Association since October 2003, will instruct the program. He has over 30 years experience in the both fields of manufacturing pyrotechnics and the display industry, having shot over 800 fireworks displays nationally and internationally.

Devens Conference Center
31 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA 01434
Course Number 200-000-628
Fee includes breaks and lunch

May 6, 2009
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Fee – Fire Departments \$10.00
Fee – Others \$25.00

Please fill out the standard student application found on www.mass.gov and mail together with fee to:

Registrar
Department of Fire Services
PO Box 1025
Stow, MA 01775





MA Department of Fire Services
2009 Senior Fire Officer Forum
Special Presentations for Massachusetts Senior Fire Officials



Integrated Risk Management
(New Program)

Speaker Gordon Graham

Gordon Graham - is a 33-year veteran of California Law Enforcement. During his tenure as a law enforcement professional, he was awarded his teaching credential from California State University, Long Beach. He later graduated from University of Southern California with a Master's Degree in Safety and Systems Management. Subsequent to this he graduated from Western State University with a Juris Doctorate.

His education as a risk manager and experience as a practicing attorney, coupled with his extensive background in law enforcement, have allowed him to rapidly become recognized as a leading professional speaker in both private and public sector organizations with multiple areas of expertise

Thursday, May 14, 2009

1000 to 1500 hours

Devens Common Center, Devens, MA

<http://www.devenscommoncenter.com>

Register online at www.mass.gov/dfs/mfa or
fax a DFS/MFA Student registration form to (978) 567- 3229



Presenters

Chief Andrew Reardon
Norwell Fire Department

Chief Robert Hollingshead
Hull Fire Department

Captain Don Jasmin
Stoughton Fire Department

Sandy Scerra D.Ed.
Statewide Response
International Critical Incident Stress
Foundation, Inc.

Reverend James Tilbe, and
Reverend Don Milligan
Massachusetts Corps of Fire Chaplains

Hayden Duggan Ed.D
Founder and President of the
On-site Academy

Register Early!

Limited space available

Advanced registration
through the
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
is required, or you can register online
at www.mass.gov/dfs

Please use a standard DFS/MFA
student application

Additional information & applications
can be obtained @ www.mass.gov/dfs



Devens Common Center
31 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA 01434
978-772-0188

Rooms Available from:
Spring Hill Suites Marriott
27 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA 01434
978-772-3030

Department of Fire Services
Presents:



Fire Service Serious Injury or Line of Duty Death

May 22, 2009

Devens Common Center

*** NO FEES ***

Chief Fire Officers, CISM Team
Members, Company Officers, Chaplains
and Firefighters

Course #: 200-000-S21, Session A
Date: May 22, 2009
Location: Devens Common Center
31 Andrews Parkway
Devens, MA 01434
Time: 0900 - 1600
Registration: 0830

May Day! May Day! May Day! Firefighter Down!

Now WHAT?

We are offering a one-day conference that will include how to deal with serious line of duty injury to firefighter as well as firefighter line of duty death. It will focus on two tragedies, which took place in Massachusetts, looking at them from a CISM team perspective as well as from a fire officer point of view.

It will incorporate the lessons learned by those that have been there.

Can this happen in your department?

Chief Robert Hollingshead presents **"Fate is the Hunter" – A Different Perspective**, which provides an inside perspective into the June 1999 "Clifton Avenue" fire in Hull, Massachusetts that

resulted in the traumatic and paralyzing injuries that ultimately led to the line of duty death of Firefighter John Clasby nine years later.

Included in the discussion will be analysis of the group dynamics within the fire department "family", other public safety organizations, local officials and the community; including a look at the lessons learned and a plan for the future.

Captain Don Jasmin will discuss the "Rose Street" Incident of January 28, 1995 that took place in Stoughton, claiming the life of Firefighter Victor Melendy, and the process that their department went through to deal with a firefighter fatality. This will include the short-term issues that arise with family and spouses of department members as well as of those involved.

If it does...what should you do, and who can help?

Chief Andrew Reardon discusses resources that are available locally and regionally.

Sandy Scerra, Coordinator of the MA State Peer Support Network, will discuss "Why we need CISM", review the basics of CISM, and present the statewide response including resources available.

Hayden Duggan, Founder and President of the On-Site Academy, will discuss a residential program at the On-Site Academy for managing reactions to Line of Duty Death, and present an innovative peer team for survivors, called 'WINGS' (Widows in Need of Grief Support), its services, and how to access them.

Rev. James Tilbe and Rev. Don Milligan, Massachusetts Corp of Fire Chaplains, will discuss the roll of chaplains ranging from the scene of the tragedy, to notification, funerals, follow up with family and the department.

Group Discussion/ Wrap up





From Battlefield to Street: One Uniform to Another

Currently we are experiencing the largest number of combat veterans since the Vietnam era returning to their public safety departments, having been exposed to intense combat and/or extended military deployments. In Massachusetts alone, over three hundred firefighters have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. This course explores the adjustment issues Emergency Services and Public Safety personnel are currently experiencing, and how to help them manage the challenges they face returning to the streets of the cities and towns they serve.

Community CISM teams are aware that First Responders – irrespective of which uniform or badge they carry, or whether they perform their duties on a full-time, part-time, call or volunteer basis – are at risk of being “triggered” by events in the street which may bring back incidents from their military service. This course integrates the CISM method with combat stress work. Lessons learned from the Civil War through the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan are reviewed.

The course presents a method - the RESTORE protocol – as a phased trauma recovery intervention based on CISM. Students have practicum experience in eliciting first, last and worst “benchmarks” from combat exposure, exploring the soldier’s deployment from beginning to end, and selecting the most significant representative event to be fully debriefed.

The method can be used on a group as well as on an individual basis - sharing knowledge of normal reactions of warriors to combat, forecasting potential symptoms and making connections to critical incidents in the street – as well as how understanding these can provide an opportunity for healing and recovery.

Course #: 200-000-666 A

Date: June 2 & 3, 2009

Time: 0800-1700

Location: Cape Cod Community College
2240 Lyannough Road
West Barnstable, MA

Application Process: Complete the DFS/MFA Student Application, or register online @ www.mass.gov/dfs.

Mail to: Registrar
Massachusetts Firefighting Academy
State Road, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775
(978) 567-3200

Or Fax it to:
(978) 567-3229



Department of Fire Services / Massachusetts Firefighting Academy

- ❖ Cords or wires that are nailed into place. This can cause electrical shorts and arcing.
- ❖ Indoor appliances and cords being used outdoors.

MAINTENANCE

Electrical wiring, like all other systems, needs maintenance and inspection. Have your electrical system examined by a licensed electrician every 10 years. All electrical work should be done by a licensed electrician who obtains a permit when required. The permit process protects homeowners by requiring that an inspector check that the work is done correctly.



Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI)

An arc fault circuit interrupter is a new device designed to actually reduce the likelihood of fires. It responds to arcing and sparking within a circuit before the circuit breaker or fuse trips. The AFCI breaker trips to help prevent the fire from occurring in the first place.

The AFCI is installed at the electrical panel and doesn't look much different than a regular circuit breaker.

Don't confuse the AFCI with GFCI. Both devices serve different functions.

AFCIs are mostly found in newly built homes, but can easily be installed in older homes equipped with circuit breakers.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)

Installing Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) receptacles could cut deaths from electrical shock in and around the home by two-thirds. They should be installed by a qualified electrician in places near water such as kitchen counters, bathrooms and other areas subject to moisture, including outdoors.



PREVENTING ELECTROCUTIONS AND SHOCKS

Safety Tips:

- ❖ Read and follow instructions and safety tips provided with electrical appliances and equipment.
- ❖ Install plastic safety covers in unused receptacles to protect children from shock hazard.
- ❖ When unplugging a cord or appliance from an outlet, pull the plug not the cord. Pulling by the cord can cause damage to the wiring at the connection.
- ❖ Do not defeat polarized plugs (one prong larger than the other) or the third or ground prong.
- ❖ Keep electrical appliances and cords away from water. Keep yourself alive by keeping water and electricity separate.



Preventing Electrical Fires at Home



Stephen D. Coan
State Fire Marshal

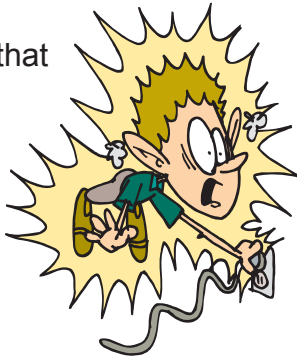
P.O. Box 1025 - State Road
Stow, Massachusetts 01775
978-567-3300
www.mass.gov/dfs

ELECTRICITY is a powerful energy source that must be treated with care and respect.

When we think about electricity, we think about electric current. Electric current is the power running along wires in our home and generates heat as it travels. The electrical current is like water running through a hose. The size of the cord can carry only so much electricity before it starts to overheat. The insulation on home wiring, fuses and other parts of the electrical system, are all designed to carry a certain amount of electricity safely. The more electricity you draw along a cord, the more quickly it heats up. For instance, an appliance like a space heater can draw a lot of current and needs to be plugged in with a properly designed cord.

EXTENSION CORDS

The plugs on cords are the places where heat builds up and the more cords you connect together, the more trouble spots you have. The connection between an extension cord and an appliance cord does not have the same safety features (like fuses or circuit breakers) as those that are built into a wall socket. That is why extension cords are for temporary use only.



ELECTRICAL FIRES: A LEADING CAUSE OF FIRE DEATHS

From 2002-2006, Massachusetts fire departments reported 2,499 home fires caused by electrical problems. These fires caused 17 civilian deaths, 115 civilian injuries, 290 fire service injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$84 million. The average loss per fire was \$34,303. Electrical fires were the 3rd leading cause of fire deaths in 2006.

POTENTIAL WARNING SIGNS & HAZARDS

Call the fire department immediately if you have any of these warning signs:

- ❖ Arcs, sparks or short circuits
- ❖ Sizzling or buzzing sound
- ❖ Odors, vague smell of something burning

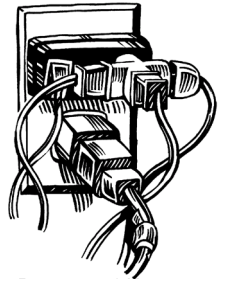
Firefighters can use thermal imaging technology to see excessive heat inside the walls.

Call a professional electrician soon if you have any of these warning signs:

- ❖ Frequently blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers;
- ❖ Dim or flickering lights, bulbs that wear out too fast;
- ❖ Overheated plugs, cords or switches;
- ❖ Shock or mild tingle – more than normal static electricity;
- ❖ Loose plugs; or
- ❖ Unusually warm or faulty outlets or switches.

You should look around for these hazards in your home and correct them:

- ❖ Cords pinched behind furniture like couches or bureaus.
- ❖ Overloaded outlets – more than one appliance cord plugged into one wall outlet.
- ❖ Overloaded powerstrips. They should only be used with a few low current devices such as electronics.
- ❖ Lamps or fixtures with light bulbs higher than the recommended wattage. Most lamps recommend 60 watts. Be careful where you use higher wattage light bulbs.
- ❖ Electrical cords underneath rugs, carpet or furniture. Move them to reduce the risk of fire from overheating due to worn insulation.
- ❖ Cords with frayed wires or cracked insulation. Replace them with new ones having a certification label from an independent testing laboratory.



- ❖ An extension cord that is not properly rated for the appliance it powers. Typical “lamp cord” extension cords cannot carry the electrical current needed for appliances such as space heaters or air conditioners.